



## *Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors*

————— *Lee Holloway* —————  
*Chairman of the Board*

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### **CHAIRMAN HOLLOWAY STATEMENT ON COUNTY EXECUTIVE ACTIONS**

**Milwaukee, WI** – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway released the following statement regarding public statements made by County Executive Chris Abele:

“County Executive Abele has decided to revisit my tenure as County Executive from earlier this year, so it’s helpful to take a closer look at the actions I took during my time in that office. It’s true that I fired three employees, including one employee who had moved forward on contracts without County Board approval. Another employee was terminated due to his close relationship with Scott Walker’s campaign.

“So far, County Executive Abele has either fired or demoted more people, especially in upper management positions. He demoted the Interim Human Resources Director, hired a new one, and then fired that individual less than a week later. That decision could result in litigation costing the County lots of money.

“County Executive Abele also fired the Child Support Enforcement Director and replaced her with a politician, replaced the confirmed Director of the Department of Transportation & Public Works, and demoted the Interim Health & Human Services Director. That’s quite a few major personnel moves for someone with little experience in public policy elected to serve a one-year term. I have 20 years on the County Board, including nearly ten years as Board Chairman.

“I served as County Executive from December 28<sup>th</sup> until February 4<sup>th</sup> because State Statutes required me to do so. I had full authority to serve as County Executive during that time, just as County Executive Abele does today. All of my personnel moves were made with cause. County Executive Abele’s firings and demotions were done without publicly disclosing any just cause.

“Based on these and other factors, his performance is suspect at best. County Executive Chris Abele is serving as a puppet for the Greater Milwaukee Committee (GMC), which is a special interest group not elected by the people of Milwaukee County. Unfortunately, the County Executive and the GMC’s

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Julia Taylor have stooped to the level of character assassinations against two of the most highly-respected officials in this government, our Controller and Auditor.

“It’s amazing to me that the County Executive is claiming that, because I terminated a few employees with cause earlier this year, that somehow we need an elected comptroller. It just doesn’t add up. Our existing Controller is truly independent and can only be removed with the concurrence of the County Executive and County Board. The Auditor has received local and national recognition as one of the top auditors in the nation. The Controller and Auditor have performed to the highest of standards and have never slanted their work product to appease politicians. The fact remains that their results are not influenced by the Board or the County Executive.

“Many people have told me that I was a good County Executive, an excellent Chairman for 10 years, and a tremendous Supervisor during my nearly 20 years on the County Board. At the beginning of this term in 2008, I publicly stated that this would be my last term on the Board. Because I’m not running again, I have no skin in the game. I’ve also been here a long time. I know the County inside and out, and my decisions are made purely on what’s best for Milwaukee County. Firing employees without cause is a dangerous path to follow. During my nearly 20 years of service in Milwaukee County, none of my personnel decisions have prompted a lawsuit, and I hope the County Executive doesn’t cause one in his first seven months.”

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